



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family  
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Agency**

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DOUGLAS E. HOWARD, Director

# News Release

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## FIA Honors Wayne County Woman

WAYNE—The director of the Michigan Family Independence Agency (FIA), Douglas E. Howard, presented the agency's statewide Achiever of the Month Award to Jacqueline Jones of Hamtramck. The celebration was held on Friday, November 16 at Career Works in Highland Park.

The award was established in 1993 to recognize persons making outstanding progress toward self-sufficiency under Michigan's comprehensive welfare reform initiative *To Strengthen Michigan's Families*. Jacqueline Jones was selected to receive the November award because of her determination to become independent of the welfare system despite significant barriers to her success.

Ms. Jones is the single mother of two children. In 1999 she left her job at Sally's Beauty Supply to care for her daughter, who had a serious medical condition and was recuperating from surgery. In addition, her son, who receives Supplemental Security Income, often needed in home care.

(more)



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

To provide for her family she applied for public assistance at the Hamtramck District, Wayne County FIA. She received Family Independence Program benefits, Medicaid and food stamps, now known as the Food Assistance Program, to help make ends meet.

Although Jacqueline received a deferral from the FIA's employment and training requirements due to the medical problems of her children, she was anxious to begin working. While her immediate plan was to find a job, her long-range goal was to find employment and become self-sufficient.

Through the FIA Jacqueline received assistance with activities such as resume writing, dressing for success and participating in mock interviews to assist her in finding employment. In July 1999, she enrolled in Wayne County Community College (WCCC) for more formal training and to increase her employability skills. She is pursuing an associate's degree in elementary education and plans to graduate in December 2003.

When Jacqueline began attending WCCC, she initially worked two part-time jobs—one as a tutor and another as a cashier in a bookstore. In August 2001 she interviewed with MIDWEST Careers and was hired as an intake specialist. She continues to work there today.

Jacqueline's hard work and extraordinary efforts have paid off. Her cash assistance case closed in December 1999 due to earnings. While she currently receives no cash assistance from the FIA, she recently applied for child day care assistance.

Because she has demonstrated the ability to meet life's challenges and proved that it is possible to succeed against the odds, Jacqueline Jones became the ninety-sixth Michigan resident to be honored with the Achiever of the Month Award.

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